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•			2192	
			DATE MAILED: 04/07/2006	5

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)				
Office Action Commence	10/051,081	KITAGAWA, EIICHIRO				
Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit				
	Chrystine Pham	2192				
The MAILING DATE of this communication app Period for Reply	ears on the cover sheet with the c	orrespondence address				
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DA - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.13 after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period w - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).	ATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION 16(a). In no event, however, may a reply be tim iill apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from cause the application to become ABANDONED	l. ely filed the mailing date of this communication. D (35 U.S.C. § 133).				
Status						
1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 Oc	ctober 2005.					
· _ ·	action is non-final.					
<i>;</i> —	/ -					
closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.						
Disposition of Claims						
4)⊠ Claim(s) <u>1-20 and 22-29</u> is/are pending in the application.						
4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.						
5) Claim(s) is/are allowed.						
6)⊠ Claim(s) <u>1-20, 22-29</u> is/are rejected.						
7) Claim(s) is/are objected to.	•					
8) Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or	election requirement.					
Application Papers						
9) The specification is objected to by the Examine	r.					
10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) acce		Examiner.				
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).						
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).						
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.						
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119						
 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some * c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received. 						
Attachment(s)	∧□	(PTO 442)				
Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	4) 🔲 Interview Summary Paper No(s)/Mail Da					
information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date	` ` ` ` ` `	atent Application (PTO-152)				

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DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on October 25th, 2005 has been entered.

2. This action is responsive to Amendment filed on October 25th 2005. Claims 1, 3, 22, and 28 have been amended. Claim 21 has been canceled. Claims 1-20, and 22-29 are presented for examination.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed October 25th 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Essentially, Applicant contends that Gazdik does not teach "the software is downloaded automatically from the network in accordance with the software information stored in the storage area" (Remarks, page 12, starting on last paragraph). Applicant further asserts, "[the downloading of software] falls to Gazdik's user, who is responsible for selecting which software components the user desires to include in the new distribution media pacakge" (Remarks, page 12, 1st full paragraph).

The Examiner respectfully disagrees and submits that this is a misreading of Gazdik. First, col.2:5-33 of Gazdik specifically reads:

[downloading software using (i.e., according to) the information (i.e., software components) from the customized distribution media package] will eliminate the need for end-user MIS personel to perform several download, extract, and setup steps because the media packager handles the downloading and integrating of the new software into a new distribution media package which the MIS personnel need run only once to load all of the new software. Once the new distribution media package has been verified, MIS personnel can add a switch to the installation program that will install the software on an end user's machine without requiring any user interaction. This allows MIS personnel to put the setup program in a log-in script that will be executed for each user as that user connects his client machine to the company network, thereby greatly automating the software component installation and upgrade process. (Emphasis added)

Thus, contrary to Applicant's assertion, Gazdik clearly teaches automatically downloading the software in accordance with the software information stored in the storage area (i.e., distribution media package). Second, contrary to Applicant's assertion, "the user accesses the software developer's site on the internet (presumably using the 'Internet download option' provided on the original distribution media package), the user selects which software components he desires to include in his new distribution package" (Remarks, page 11, 3rd paragraph), there is no user selection of software components to

be downloaded in the Gazdik's automated software installation. The only thing that the user can select (i.e., turn on) is the Internet download option provided in each distribution media package. In the context of Gazdik, this Internet download option is not used by the user to manually select which software components to be downloaded, as asserted by Applicant. Rather, the Internet download option, when selected (i.e., turned on) by the user, facilitates the automatic downloading (by the installer processing engine 11) of the most recent versions of software components belonging to the software suite indicated in the distribution media package (see at least col.3:30-36, col.4:14-21). In other words, it is the Internet download option that the user can select, and not the software components to be automatically downloaded. Moreover, in col.5:45-65, Gazdik explicitly discloses the install process (i.e., installer processing engine 11) (as opposed to the user) accessing the Internet during software installation to add (i.e., select) new or upgraded software components and downloading the software components. Needless to say, the Internet download option is used by the installation process to automatically select and download the software upgrades from the remote server in accordance with Gazdik's automated software installation technique. Thus, contrary to Applicant's argument, Gazdik clearly teaches "wherein the software is downloaded automatically from the network in accordance with the software information stored in the storage area".

4. In view of the fore going discussion, rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) and 103(a) is considered proper and maintained.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

- (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.
- 6. Claims 3-6, 14-16, 22, 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gazdik (US 6324691), hereinafter, *Gazdik*.

Claim 3

Gazdik teaches an information processing device and method (e.g., see Abstract; see end user's machine, client machine col.2:25-33) comprising:

o a portable-information-storage-medium connection unit (i.e., <u>connection step</u>) to which a portable information storage medium is connectable, wherein the portable information

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storage medium stores (e.g., see removable disk, CD-ROM, DVD disk col.3:30-37) information identifying (i.e., identification information of the software AND location information representing a location on the network at which the identified software is stored) software (e.g., see original distribution media package, see Internet download option col.30-37; see software col.4:14-25; see access to Internet col.5:45-60; link, remote server, original distribution media package col.9:4-10) to be acquired via a network from a server (e.g., see remote server col.3:30-50);

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- o an information transfer unit (i.e., <u>information transfer step</u>) adapted to automatically download (see at least col.2:5-35; col.3:30-36; col.5:45-65) the software from the server via the network into a storage medium, <u>represented by the software identification information</u>, <u>using the location information</u>, from the server terminal into an internal storage medium by using said communication unit (e.g., see *new distribution medium*, *downloaded* col.3:55-60; see *Internet download option* col.3:30-37; see *Internet, remote server* col.4:14-25);
- o a software storage unit adapted to store, in a software storage area of the internal storage medium, the software downloaded into the internal storage medium (e.g., see mass storage medium, new distribution medium col.3:49-67; see MASS STORAGE 16 FIG.1 & associated text);
- o a software management unit (i.e., <u>software management step</u>) adapted to manage the software downloaded into the storage medium (e.g., see *INSTALLER PROCESSING ENGINE 11* FIG.1 & associated text; see *new distribution medium, downloaded*

col.3:55-60; see Internet download option col.3:30-37; see Internet, remote server col.4:14-25); and

o an external-storage-medium reading unit (i.e., external-storage-medium reading step) adapted to read predetermined information written in the portable information storage medium when the portable information storage medium is connected to said portable-information-storage-medium connecting unit (e.g., see removable disk, CD-ROM, DVD disk col.3:30-37).

Claim 4

The rejection of base claim 3 is incorporated. Claim recites limitations, which have been addressed in claim 1, therefore, is rejected for the same reasons as cited in claim 1.

Claim 5

The rejection of base claim 4 is incorporated. Claim recites limitations, which have been addressed in claim 1, therefore, is rejected for the same reasons as cited in claim 1.

Claim 6

The rejection of base claim 3 is incorporated. *Gazdik* does not expressly disclose wherein said software management unit performs a software activating process for executing the software stored in the software storage area. However, this feature is deemed inherent in the teaching of *Gazdik* wherein software is downloaded and installed from a network server into an end-user's computer. It is inconceivable that the end-user's computer does not have the means (i.e.,

software management unit performing software activating process) for executing the software after it has taken all the necessary steps to download and install the software in the software storage area.

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Claim 14

The rejection of base claim 4 is incorporated. Gazdik further teaches wherein, when software represented by the software identification information is not downloaded into the storage medium, said software management unit executes a process for downloading the software into the storage medium (e.g., see new distribution media package, unknown, updated versions col.3:30-60).

Claim 15

The rejection of base claim 14 is incorporated. Claim recites limitations, which have been addressed in claim 6, therefore, is rejected for the same reasons as cited in claim 6.

Claim 16

The rejection of base claim 4 is incorporated. *Gazdik* further teaches wherein:

o when software represented by the software identification information is downloaded into the storage medium, said software management unit performs a process for comparing a version of software stored in the server and a version of software stored in the storage medium (e.g., col.3:44-49);

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o said software management unit performs a process for initiating execution of the software in the storage medium when both versions match each other (e.g., see *current files* col.3:55-60); and

o when the version of the software stored in the server is newer than the version in the storage medium, said software management unit performs a process that, after downloading the software from the server into the storage medium, initiates execution of the downloaded software (e.g., see *updated versions* col.3:55-60).

Claim 22

Gazdik teaches an information processing method comprising:

- o a portable-information-storage-medium connection step of connecting a portable information storage medium to a portable-information-storage-medium connection unit, wherein the portable information storage medium stores information identifying software to be acquired via a network from a server (see at least col.3:1-67; see claim 3);
- a reading step of reading predetermined information written in the portable information storage medium when the portable information storage medium is connected in said portable-info-storage-medium connection step (see at least col.3:1-67; see claim 3);
- an information transfer step of automatically downloading (see at least col.2:5-35; col.3:30-36; col.5:45-65) the software from a server via the network in accordance with the identifying information stored on the portable information storage medium (see claim 3);

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o a software storage step of storing, in an internal storage medium, the software downloaded in said information transfer step (see claim 3); and

o a software management step of managing the software stored in the software storage area

(see claim 3);

Claim 23

Gazdik teaches computer-readable storage medium storing a program for controlling a computer

to execute an information processing method as set forth in claim 22 (e.g., see PROCESS

CONTROL STATE FILE 12 FIG.1 & associated text; see Pcommand 31 FIG.3 & associated

text).

Claims 24, 25

Claims recite limitations which have been addressed in claim 3, therefore, are rejected for the

same reasons cited in claim 3.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or

described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject

matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole

would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary

skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1,2, 28, and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Gazdik* in view of Carr et al. (US 6788800), hereinafter, *Carr et al.*.

Claim 1

Gazdik teaches a portable information storage medium loadable into an information processing device connected to a network (see claim 3), the information processing device adapted to execute software downloaded from the network (see claim 6), said portable information storage medium including a storage area for storing software information including:

- o identification information for identifying the software to be downloaded (see claim 3);
- o location information representing a location on the network at which the software to be downloaded is stored (see claim 3).
- o wherein the software is automatically downloaded from the network in accordance with the software information stored in the storage area (see at least *original distribution* media package, component files, updated versions of existing files col.3:30-67; col.5:1-16; col.2:5-35; col.5:45-65).

Gazdik does not expressly disclose secret information on a user who uses the software to be downloaded. However, Carr et al. teach a portable information storage medium including a storage area for storing software information including product code, serial number, and secret information on a user who uses the software (e.g., see embedded security data col.5:28-47; see

embedded data, key, CD, DVD, product identifier, serial number, password col.6:8-23). Gazdik and Carr et al. are analogous art because they are both directed to a method of downloading software from network source (e.g., see software product, installation, web server col.5:1-10). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the pertinent art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Carr et al. into that of Gazdik for the inclusion of product code, serial number, and secret information. And the motivation for doing so would have been to facilitate automated authentication of BOTH the software product and the user of the software product to prevent illegal usage of the software by unauthorized users and to further detect counterfeit copies of the software product.

Claims 2, 28, 29

Claims recite limitations, which have been addressed in claims 1 and 3, therefore, are rejected for the same reasons as cited in claims 1, and 3.

9. Claims 7 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Gazdik* in view of Shih et al. (US 6405362), hereinafter, *Shih et al.*.

Claim 7

The rejection of base claim 3 is incorporated. *Gazdik* further teaches a deletion process for deleting the software stored in the software storage area (e.g., see *unexecuted()*, *uninstall* col.7:5-57). *Gazdik* does not expressly disclose wherein, when the portable information storage medium is disconnected from said portable-information-storage-medium connecting unit, said

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software management unit performs a deletion process for deleting the software downloaded into the storage medium. However, Shih et al. teach a system and method of detecting removal or disconnection of the portable information storage medium from the connecting unit (e.g., see Compact Flash memory card, software, removed col.3:5-20; see 28, 30, 29, 31 FIG.1 & associated text; see col.4:55-60) wherein when the portable information storage medium is disconnected from said portable-information-storage-medium connecting unit, said software management unit performs a deletion process for deleting the software stored in the software storage area (e.g., see cleaning up, releasing resources col.3:5-25; col.6:30-55; see removal message, application 220 col.7:19-30; col.7:60-67). Gazdik and Shih et al. are analogous art because they are both directed to software installation. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the pertinent art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Shih et al. into that of Gazdik for the inclusion of deletion process upon disconnection of portable storage medium. And the motivation for doing so would have been to reduce potential application or system crashes caused by referencing memory on the portable storage medium which has been disconnected and to further free up memory for use by other applications and programs.

Claim 26

Claim recites limitations which have been addressed in claim 7, therefore, is rejected for the same reasons cited in claim 7.

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10. Claims 8, 9, 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Gazdik* in view of Foster et al. (US 6121967), hereinafter, *Foster et al.*.

Claim 8

The rejection of base claim 3 is incorporated. Gazdik does not expressly disclose wherein, when the portable information storage medium is disconnected from said portable-informationstorage-medium connecting unit while the software downloaded into the storage medium is being executed, said software management unit performs a medium-unloading warning process, for warning a user by interrupting execution of the software downloaded into the storage medium, and a user-input accepting process, for activating a user-input accepting state after the medium-unloading warning process is performed. However, Foster et al. teach wherein, when the portable information storage medium (e.g., see floppy disk, floppy drive col.4:45-55; see devices, media bays col.5:1-10) is disconnected from said portable-information-storage-medium connecting unit while the software stored in the software storage area is being executed, said software management unit performs a medium-unloading warning process, for warning a user by interrupting execution of the software stored in the software storage area (e.g., see halt processing, removed a "locked" media bay device col.2:1:15), and a user-input accepting process (i.e., user selects termination or restarting execution of software), for activating a userinput accepting state after the medium-unloading warning process is performed (e.g., see reinsertion col.2:5-15; see 412 FIG.4 & associated text; col.8:60-col.9:25).

Claim 9

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The rejection of base claim 8 is incorporated. *Foster et al.* further teach wherein, when the portable information storage medium is connected again after the medium-unloading warning process is performed, said software management unit performs an execution restarting process for restarting execution of the software (e.g., col.9:15-25).

Claim 17

The rejection of base claim 3 is incorporated. Foster et al. further teach wherein:

- o when the software is terminated while the portable information storage medium is being loaded into said portable-information-storage-medium connecting unit, said software management unit displays, on a menu screen, an option for reactivating the software so that the software can be reactivated by input from a user (e.g., see 410, 412, 418 FIG.4 & associated text; see 114, 116 FIG.1B & associated text); and
- o when the portable information storage medium is unloaded after the software is terminated (i.e., user selects termination of execution of the software in the user-input accepting state), said software management unit performs a process for deleting the option for reactivating the software (i.e., software management unit performs a process for terminating execution of the software) from the menu screen so that reactivation of the software cannot be performed in response to input from a user (e.g., col.2:5-15; see 412, 414, 416 FIG.4 & associated text; see 118 FIG.1B & associated text).

Claim 18

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The rejection of base claim 8 is incorporated. Claim recites limitations, which have been addressed in claims 8, and 9, therefore, is rejected for the same reasons as cited in claims 8, and 9.

Claim 19

The rejection of base claim 8 is incorporated. Claim recites limitations, which have been addressed in claim 17, therefore, is rejected for the same reasons as cited in claim 17.

Claim 20

The rejection of base claim 3 is incorporated. *Gazdik* further teaches wherein, when the portable information storage medium is unloaded while the software is being executed, said software management unit continues execution of the software (e.g., col.7:44-50), and, when a user terminates execution of the software, said software management unit performs a process for deleting an option for reactivating the software from a menu screen, so that reactivation of the software cannot be performed in response to input from a user (see claim 17).

11. Claims 12, 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Gazdik* in view of Srinivasan (US 6460076), hereinafter, *Srinivasan*.

Claim 12

The rejection of base claim 3 is incorporated. Gazdik further teaches wherein:

o the storage medium includes a nonvolatile memory (i.e., internal storage) (e.g., see mass storage device, component persistent data file col.3:10-27; see mass storage medium col.3:49-55). Gazdik does not expressly disclose a volatile memory. However, this feature is deemed inherent in the teaching of Gazdik wherein the end-user computer downloads, and installs executable software programs/applications (e.g., see executable col. 1:53-56). At the time of applicant's invention, it is well known in the art that volatile memory (i.e., RAM) can be read from and written to and is therefore used for storing application programs and data that can be manipulated and changed. Thus, volatile memory is utilized by the computer's CPU during program execution, and is inherent in the teaching of Gazdik. Gazdik does not expressly disclose said software management unit stores a device identification in the nonvolatile memory (i.e., internal storage). However, this feature is deemed inherent in the teaching of Gazdik because it is inconceivable that a computer operating system functions without maintaining the knowledge and information of the device or hardware (i.e., device identification) it is operating on. Furthermore, it is inconceivable that such device identification should be saved in (i.e., written to) a volatile memory where it can be lost due to system power outage as opposed to a nonvolatile memory where it can later be retrieved for processing during system re/booting. Gazdik further teaches after the portable information storage medium connected to said portable-information-storage-medium connection unit, said software management unit examines whether or not information are written in the portable information storage medium (e.g., see comparing component files, original distribution media package col.3:44-49). Gazdik does not expressly disclose storing

user information in internal storage and device identification and user information are written to the portable information storage medium. Gazdik does not expressly disclose when the device identification and the user information are not written, said software management unit writes the device identification and the user information into the portable information storage medium. However, Srinivasan teaches an apparatus and method providing for the downloading software from a network server to a user computer wherein user information is provided (e.g., see authentication, verification col.4:20-40) and software (i.e., data or information) is recorded (i.e., written to) in portable media (e.g., see Abstract; see VERIFY THAT MEDIA RECORDER IS READY, DOWNLOAD FILE TO MEMORY IN USER INTERFACE, TRANSFER FILE TO MEDIA RECORDER FIG.3 & associated text; see network, downloadable software, portable media col. 1:60-col. 2:36). Gazdik and Srinivasan are analogous art because they are both directed to method of downloading software from a network server (i.e., terminal). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the pertinent art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Srinivasan into that of Gazdik for the inclusion of storing user information in internal storage, and writing information (i.e., device identification and user information) to the portable storage medium. And the motivation for doing so would have been to provide portability or mobility for these information, enabling access to these information when the portable storage medium is loaded on and read by a different device for downloading software or replicating the information to other portable or non-portable storage media through use of the device.

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Claim 13

The rejection of base claim 12 is incorporated. Gazdik further teaches wherein, after the

portable information storage medium is connected to said portable-information-storage-medium

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connection unit, said software management unit examines whether or not the device

identification and the user information are written in the portable information storage medium,

and, when the device identification and the user information are written, and said software

management unit finds, by comparing a device identification stored internally in said

information processing device and the device identification written in the portable information

storage medium, identity between both device identifications, said software management unit

initiates accessing of the server terminal (e.g., see comparing, copying col.3:44-60).

12. Claims 10, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gazdik

in view of Foster et al. further in view of Shih et al..

Claim 10

The rejection of base claim 8 is incorporated. Claim recites limitations, which have been

addressed in claims 7, and 8, therefore, is rejected for the same reasons as cited in claims 7, and

8.

Claim 11

The rejection of base claim 3 is incorporated. Claim recites limitations, which have been addressed in claims 7, and 20, therefore, is rejected for the same reasons as cited in claims 7, and 20.

13. Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Gazdik* in view of Redford et al. (US 5711672, hereinafter *Redford*).

Claim 27

The rejection of base claim 22 is incorporated. *Gazdik* does not expressly disclose when the portable information storage medium is disconnected while the software downloaded into the internal storage medium is being executed, said software management step performs an interruption process for interrupting execution of the software downloaded into the internal storage medium. However, *Redford* discloses when the portable information storage medium is disconnected while the software downloaded into the internal storage medium is being executed, said software management step performs an interruption process for interrupting execution of the software downloaded into the internal storage medium (see at least *removable storage media*, *peripheral*, *autostart driver*, *application* Abstract; *removable storage media*, *peripheral*, *started process*, *removal*, *inserted storage media* col.1:60-col.2:3; col.2:65-col.3:20; col.4:10-25; applications, *host device is permanently installed storage media* col.5:35-67). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of *Redford* into that of *Gazdik* for the inclusion of interrupting execution of the software when the portable medium is removed. And the motivation for doing so would have been to

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facilitate automatic freeing of the random access memory that were used by the executed software and to protect the device from going into an undesirable or unknown state when the portable medium is prematurely removed (see *Redford* Abstract; col.2:60-65).

Conclusion

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chrystine Pham whose telephone number is 571-272-3702. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8:30am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tuan Q. Dam can be reached on 571-272-3695. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CP April 1, 2006

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